

TermCoord and those who worship the Goddess IATE

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The EP's terminologists set up camp outside the Hemicycle during the December part-session to invite MEPs to worship the Goddess **IATE!**

A large poster of devotion to her was displayed there bearing the slogan "Drafting Legislation with the Right Terminology".

IATE, blessed be your name. Your abbreviated name, that is, because your full name is "InterActive Terminology for Europe".

Oh, terminological database of 23 faces, your insatiable appetite is constantly fed by the translators of all the institutions.

Or so I was informed by one of your great disciples, Rodolfo Maslias, who is also Head of the Terminology and Coordination Unit, known as **TermCoord**.

The translators are thus your most devoted followers. But your cult extends much further than that. Indeed, you were opened up to the public in June 2008, offering up 8 500 000 terms. The general public consults you 3 600 times an hour, right across the world, and Newshound bows to you: it could never measure up...

But let's leave the gods be and descend back to earth. Translation will never be an exact science; all the more reason to limit the margin of error. Although databases don't guarantee the quality of a translation, they are solid safeguards.

" I n t e r m i n o q u a l i t a s "

"In termino qualitas" is the TermCoord motto.

Terminology concentrates on terms, "elementary" linguistic units. But even at that level there may be different options, depending on the context or style. That is why each term in the IATE database has a reliability rating and is accompanied by an indication of the source.

IATE tells us, for example, that equivalents of "environmental refugee" are "environmental migrant" and "eco-refugee"; that in French the corresponding terms are "migrant environnemental", "réfugié environnemental", "réfugié écologique" and "éco-réfugié"; and that in German the terms used are "Umweltflüchtling" and "Umwelt-migrant" * .

"Eco-réfugié" was found in a newspaper. It is clearly a more journalistic term than "migrant environnemental", which is more reminiscent of the jargon of an international institution... The terms "migrant" and "réfugié" are terms that undoubtedly have slightly different political connotations.

- You can contact the Terminology and Coordination Unit at the following address: dgtrad.termcoord@europarl.europa.eu

- To access the website of the Unit, click [here](#).

* In the context of IATE, the area of human rights is the priority responsibility of the EP. TermCoord has produced the booklet "Human Rights Terminology (a selection from IATE, the international terminology database)". Another booklet, "Terminology Coordination", is also worth a look: it illustrates clearly the several roles played by TermCoord within DG TRAD and for IATE.

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